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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

At the request of the Acting Secretary of Defense, the Special Committee of the National Security Council on Atomic Energy met on April 15, 1953 to determine the next steps to be taken in carrying out the "Agreed Concepts Regarding Atomic Weapons" (Appendix A), in the light of a memorandum from the Joint Chiefs of Staff recommending that custody of atomic weapons be transferred from the Atomic Energy Commission to the Department of Defense (Appendix B).

The Acting Secretary of State and the Acting Secretary of Defense agreed to recommend for your approval the transfer of custody of all completed atomic weapons from the Atomic Energy Commission to the Department of Defense subject to:

- a. A reaffirmation of the "Agreed Concepts Regarding Atomic Weapons", except for paragraph 3 thereof which would be amended by your approval of the above recommendation.
- b. Careful consideration of the question of timing and tactics involved in effecting the transfer so as to minimize the psychological impact of this action both at home and abroad, including ample opportunity for the Department of State to notify our major allies, of a positive decision in advance of any publicity.

Statements by the Acting Secretary of State and the Acting Secretary of Defense supporting the above recommendation are attached hereto as Appendices C and D, respectively.

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 E.O. 12356, SEC. 3.4(a)
 Agency Case 88-107-104-70167
 NLE Case 85-537-24
 BY [Signature] NLE Date 1/18

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The Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission dissents from the above recommendation for the reasons indicated in his statement attached hereto as Appendix E.

JAMES S. LAY, JR.
Executive Secretary

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